VALOR
VALOR
13
NOV 93
VALOR™
DAXAM™
DEVASTATED!!
WALD
MOORE
SELLERS
NYBERG
D.O.A.
2
Stuart
+
Wade

FUTURE SHOCK
I'M NOT GONNA DIE.
D.O.A.
CHAPTER TWO
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PENCILS: JEFFREY MOORE
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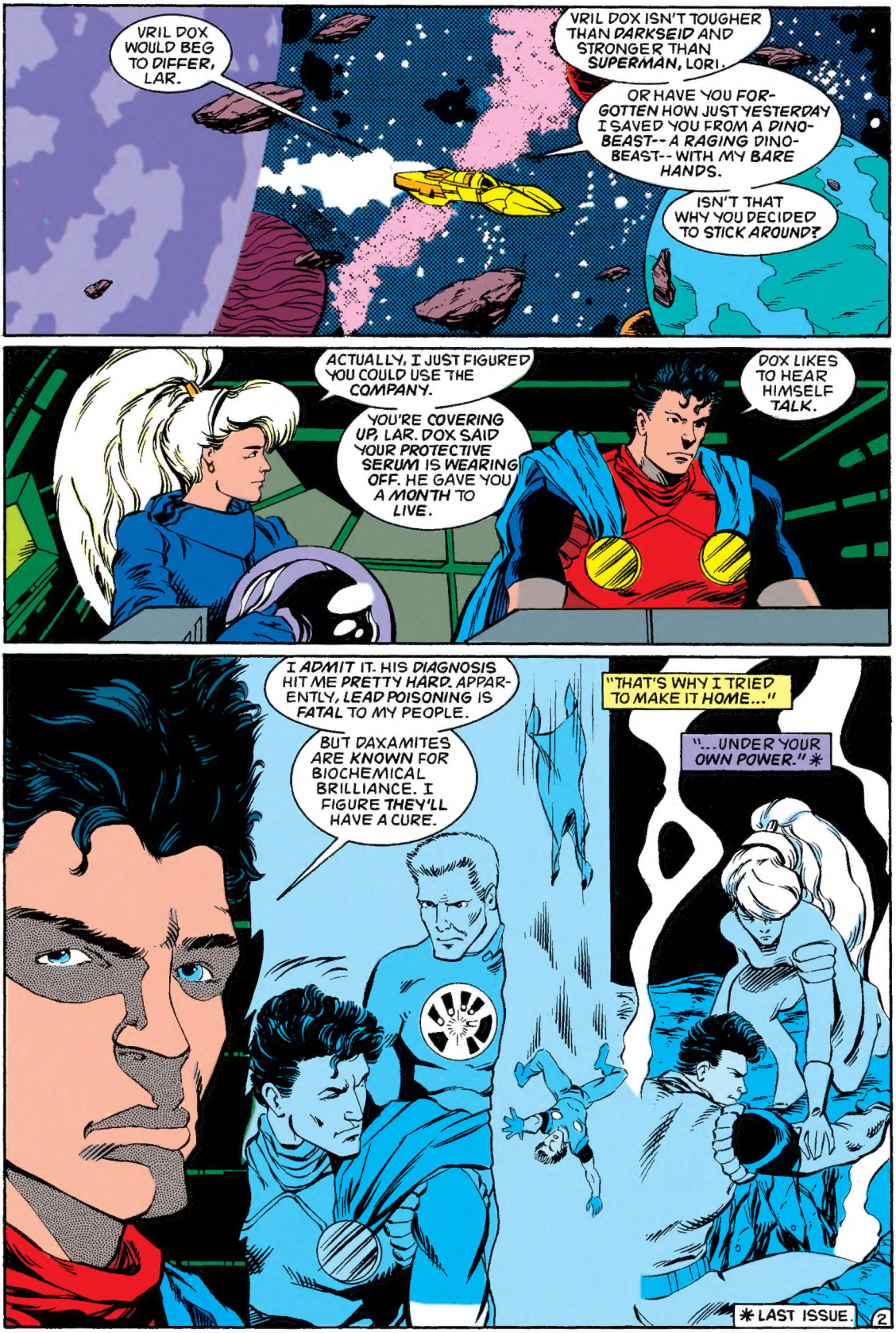
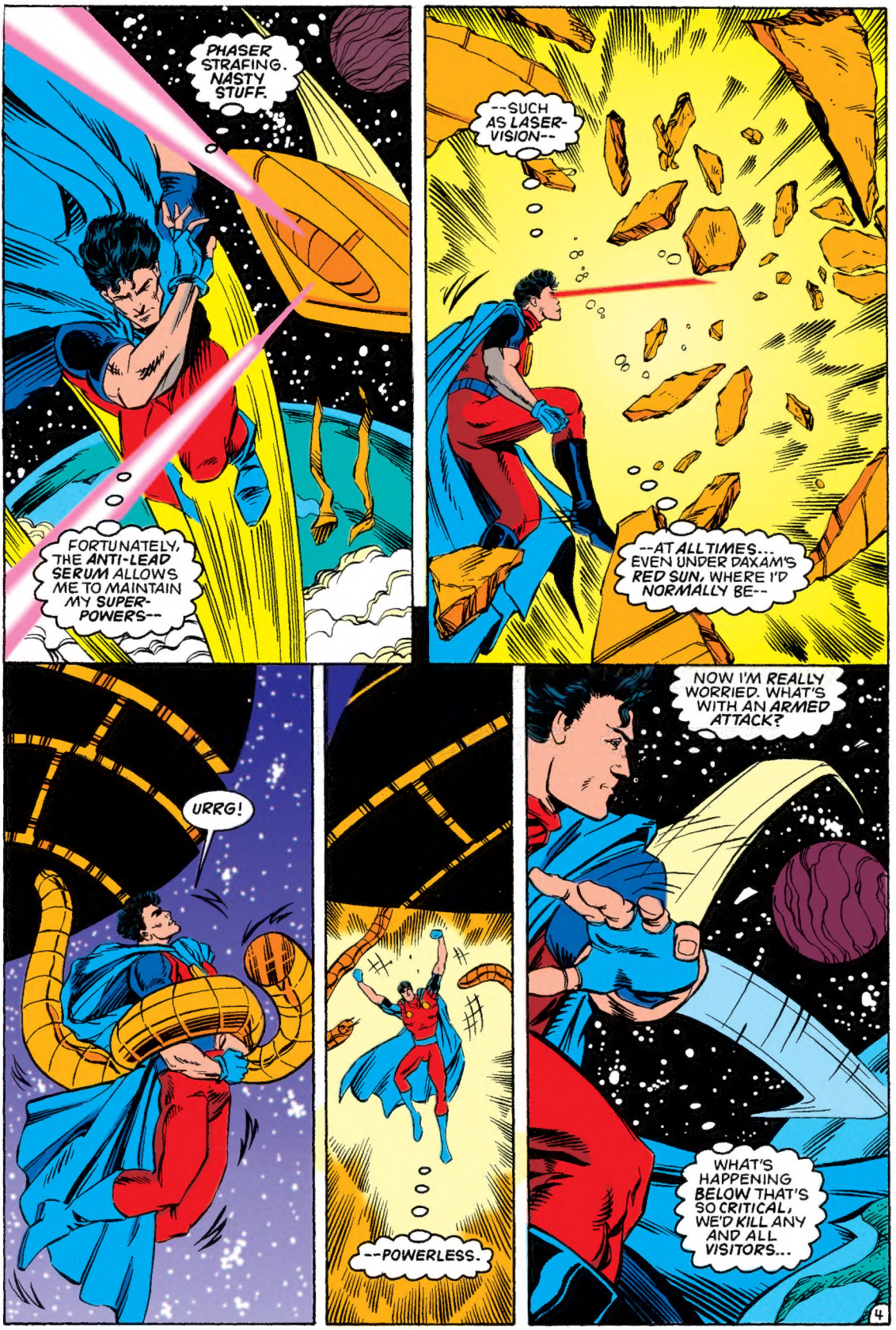
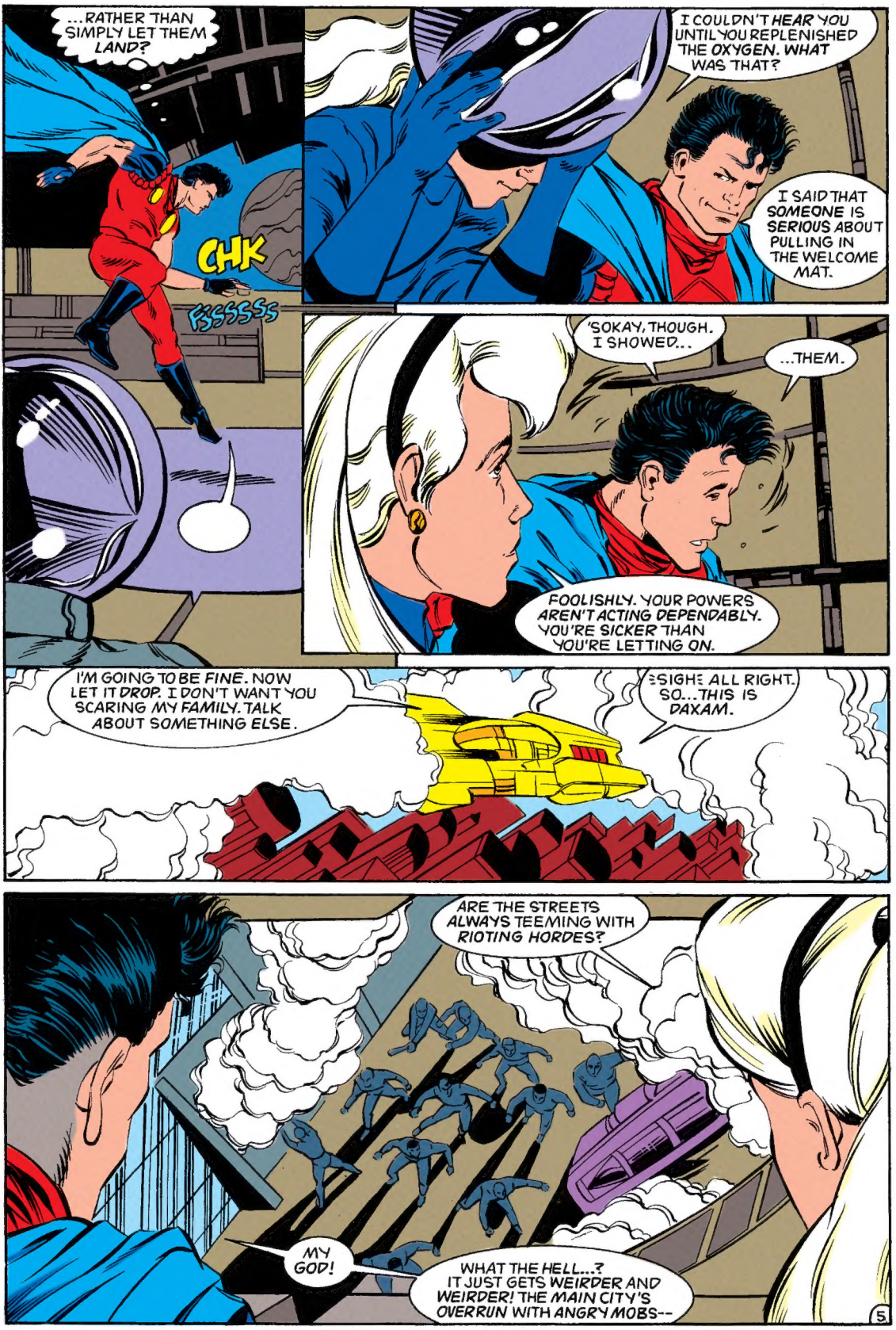
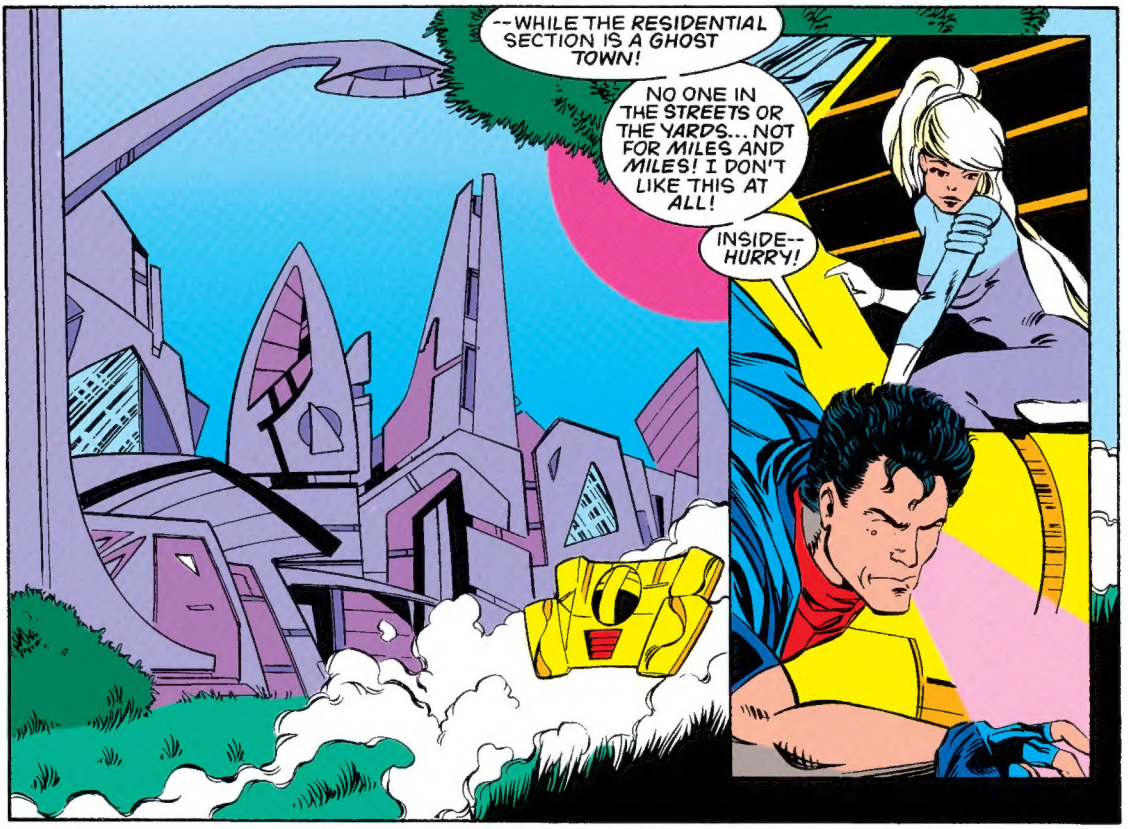
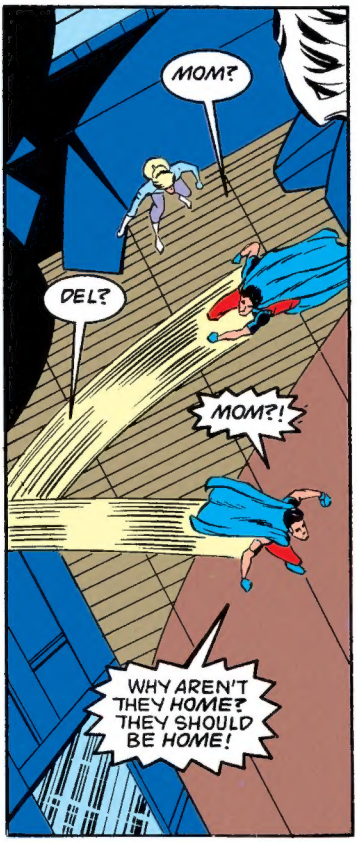

VRIL DOX WOULD BEG TO DIFFER, LAR.
VRIL DOX ISN'T TOUGHER THAN DARKSEID AND STRONGER THAN SUPERMAN, LORI.
OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW JUST YESTERDAY I SAVED YOU FROM A DINO-BEAST--A RAGING DINO-BEAST--WITH MY BARE HANDS.
ISN'T THAT WHY YOU DECIDED TO STICK AROUND?
ACTUALLY, I JUST FIGURED YOU COULD USE THE COMPANY.
YOU'RE COVERING UP, LAR. DOX SAID YOUR PROTECTIVE SERUM IS WEARING OFF. HE GAVE YOU A MONTH TO LIVE.
DOX LIKES TO HEAR HIMSELF TALK.
I ADMIT IT. HIS DIAGNOSIS HIT ME PRETTY HARD. APPARENTLY, LEAD POISONING IS FATAL TO MY PEOPLE.
BUT DAXAMITES ARE KNOWN FOR BIOCHEMICAL BRILLIANCE. I FIGURE THEY'LL HAVE A CURE.
"THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO MAKE IT HOME..."
"...UNDER YOUR OWN POWER." *
* LAST ISSUE.
2

YOU WEREN'T SO STRONG THEN.
YEAH, WELL, I'M FEELING BETTER. BESIDES, I'VE GOT OTHER THINGS ON MY MIND RIGHT NOW.
SUCH AS DENIAL.
SUCH AS WORRY... ABOUT MY HOMEWORLD. ACCORDING TO THE L.E.G.I.O.N., DAXAM SEVERED ALL COMMUNICATIONS A FEW MONTHS BACK...
...AFTER BEING DEVASTATED BY A MYSTERIOUS AND UNKNOWN DISASTER.
THEY WON'T EVEN HEED MY SIGNALS--
ATTENTION, TRAVELLER!
RETREAT FROM OUR WORLD-- IMMEDIATELY!
DAXAM DEFENSE SATELLITES?
LEGENDARILY IMPATIENT.
SEAL YOURSELF IN, LORI! I'VE GOT TO MAKE A RUN OUTSIDE--
--AND HIT THEM--
--BEFORE THEY HIT US!
3


PHASER STRAFING. NASTY STUFF.
FORTUNATELY, THE ANTI-LEAD SERUM ALLOWS ME TO MAINTAIN MY SUPER-POWERS--
--SUCH AS LASER-VISION--
--AT ALL TIMES... EVEN UNDER DAXAM'S RED SUN, WHERE I'D NORMALLY BE--
URRG!
--POWERLESS.
NOW I'M REALLY WORRIED. WHAT'S WITH AN ARMED ATTACK?
WHAT'S HAPPENING BELOW THAT'S SO CRITICAL, WE'D KILL ANY AND ALL VISITORS...

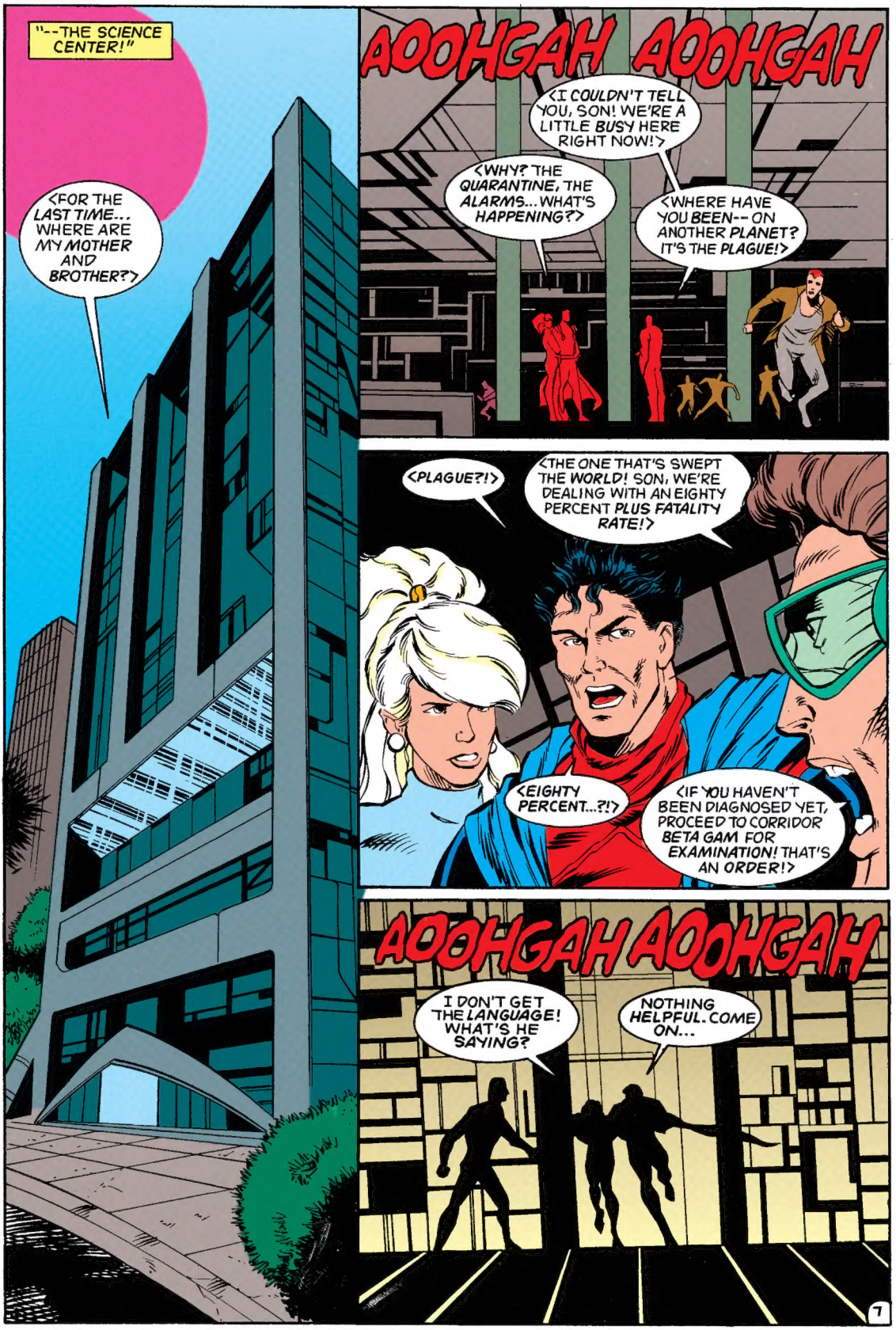

...RATHER THAN SIMPLY LET THEM LAND?
CHK
FSSSSSS
I COULDN'T HEAR YOU UNTIL YOU REPLENISHED THE OXYGEN. WHAT WAS THAT?
I SAID THAT SOMEONE IS SERIOUS ABOUT PULLING IN THE WELCOME MAT.
'SOKAY, THOUGH. I SHOWED...
...THEM.
FOOLISHLY. YOUR POWERS AREN'T ACTING DEPENDABLY. YOU'RE SICKER THAN YOU'RE LETTING ON.
I'M GOING TO BE FINE. NOW LET IT DROP. I DON'T WANT YOU SCARING MY FAMILY. TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.
SIGH ALL RIGHT. SO...THIS IS DAXAM.
ARE THE STREETS ALWAYS TEEMING WITH RIOTING HORDES?
MY GOD!
WHAT THE HELL...? IT JUST GETS WEIRDER AND WEIRDER! THE MAIN CITY'S OVERRUN WITH ANGRY MOBS--
5

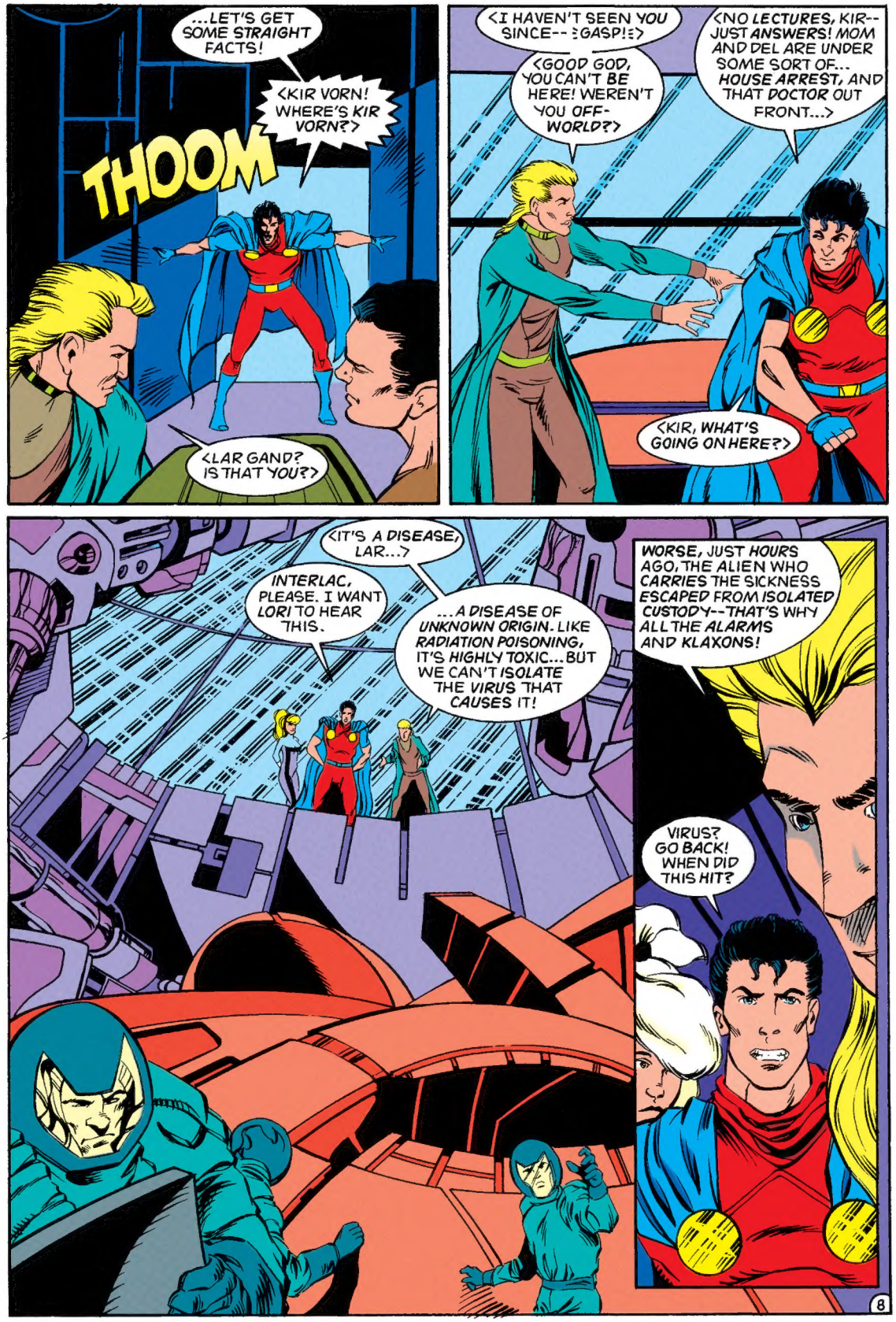

--WHILE THE RESIDENTIAL SECTION IS A GHOST TOWN!
NO ONE IN THE STREETS OR THE YARDS... NOT FOR MILES AND MILES! I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL!
INSIDE-- HURRY!

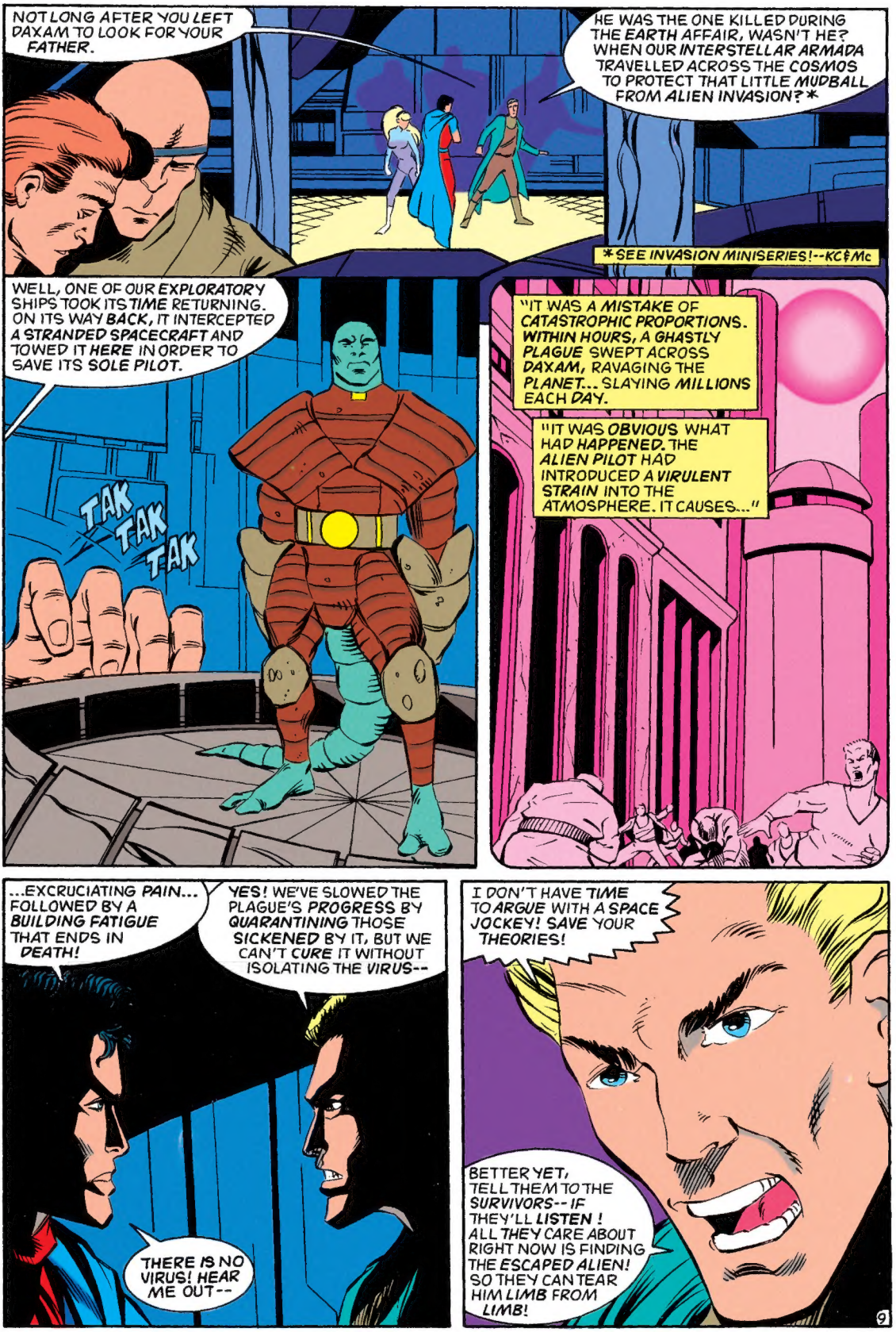

MOM?
DEL?
MOM?!
WHY AREN'T THEY HOME? THEY SHOULD BE HOME!

THERE'S A SIGN ON THE FRONT DOOR! TRANSLATION, PLEASE?
IT'S A QUARANTINE NOTICE...?

THEY'RE ON EVERY BUILDING IN SIGHT!
ACCORDING TO THIS, THESE HOUSES HAVE BEEN SEALED! EVERYONE IN THIS SECTOR HAS BEEN TAKEN TO--

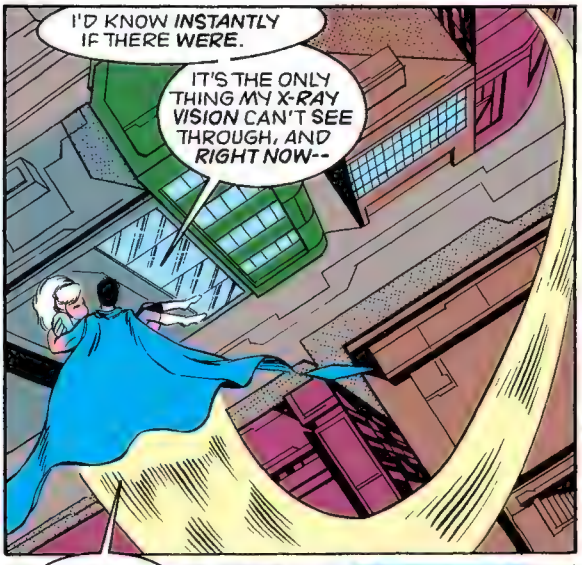

"--THE SCIENCE CENTER!"
<FOR THE LAST TIME... WHERE ARE MY MOTHER AND BROTHER?>
AOOHGAH AOOHGAH
<I COULDN'T TELL YOU, SON! WE'RE A LITTLE BUSY HERE RIGHT NOW!>
<WHY? THE QUARANTINE, THE ALARMS... WHAT'S HAPPENING?>
<WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN-- ON ANOTHER PLANET? IT'S THE PLAGUE!>
<PLAGUE?!>
<THE ONE THAT'S SWEPT THE WORLD! SON, WE'RE DEALING WITH AN EIGHTY PERCENT PLUS FATALITY RATE!>
<EIGHTY PERCENT...?!>
<IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DIAGNOSED YET, PROCEED TO CORRIDOR BETA GAM FOR EXAMINATION! THAT'S AN ORDER!>
AOOHGAH AOOHGAH
I DON'T GET THE LANGUAGE! WHAT'S HE SAYING?
NOTHING HELPFUL. COME ON...

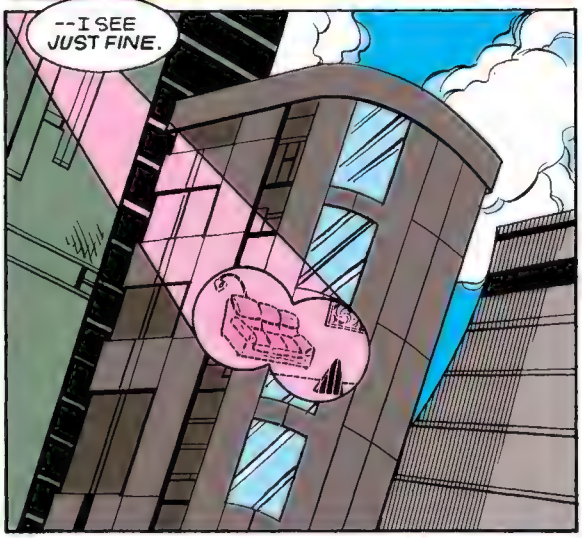

...LET'S GET SOME STRAIGHT FACTS!
<KIR VORN! WHERE'S KIR VORN?>
THOOM
<LAR GAND? IS THAT YOU?>
<I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE-- :GASP!:>
<GOOD GOD, YOU CAN'T BE HERE! WEREN'T YOU OFF-WORLD?>
<NO LECTURES, KIR-- JUST ANSWERS! MOM AND DEL ARE UNDER SOME SORT OF... HOUSE ARREST, AND THAT DOCTOR OUT FRONT...>
<KIR, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?>
<IT'S A DISEASE, LAR...>
INTERLAC, PLEASE. I WANT LORI TO HEAR THIS.
...A DISEASE OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN. LIKE RADIATION POISONING, IT'S HIGHLY TOXIC... BUT WE CAN'T ISOLATE THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES IT!
WORSE, JUST HOURS AGO, THE ALIEN WHO CARRIES THE SICKNESS ESCAPED FROM ISOLATED CUSTODY--THAT'S WHY ALL THE ALARMS AND KLAXONS!
VIRUS? GO BACK! WHEN DID THIS HIT?


NOT LONG AFTER YOU LEFT DAXAM TO LOOK FOR YOUR FATHER.
HE WAS THE ONE KILLED DURING THE EARTH AFFAIR, WASN'T HE? WHEN OUR INTERSTELLAR ARMADA TRAVELLED ACROSS THE COSMOS TO PROTECT THAT LITTLE MUDBALL FROM ALIEN INVASION?*
*SEE INVASION MINISERIES!--KC&Mc
WELL, ONE OF OUR EXPLORATORY SHIPS TOOK ITS TIME RETURNING. ON ITS WAY BACK, IT INTERCEPTED A STRANDED SPACECRAFT AND TOWED IT HERE IN ORDER TO SAVE ITS SOLE PILOT.
TAK TAK TAK
"IT WAS A MISTAKE OF CATASTROPHIC PROPORTIONS. WITHIN HOURS, A GHASTLY PLAGUE SWEPT ACROSS DAXAM, RAVAGING THE PLANET... SLAYING MILLIONS EACH DAY.
"IT WAS OBVIOUS WHAT HAD HAPPENED. THE ALIEN PILOT HAD INTRODUCED A VIRULENT STRAIN INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. IT CAUSES..."
...EXCRUCIATING PAIN... FOLLOWED BY A BUILDING FATIGUE THAT ENDS IN DEATH!
YES! WE'VE SLOWED THE PLAGUE'S PROGRESS BY QUARANTINING THOSE SICKENED BY IT, BUT WE CAN'T CURE IT WITHOUT ISOLATING THE VIRUS--
THERE IS NO VIRUS! HEAR ME OUT--
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO ARGUE WITH A SPACE JOCKEY! SAVE YOUR THEORIES!
BETTER YET, TELL THEM TO THE SURVIVORS-- IF THEY'LL LISTEN! ALL THEY CARE ABOUT RIGHT NOW IS FINDING THE ESCAPED ALIEN! SO THEY CAN TEAR HIM LIMB FROM LIMB!
9

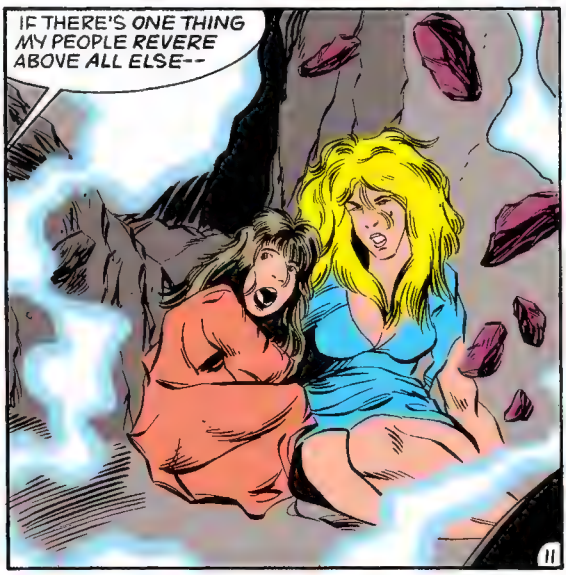
THEY DON'T GET IT! HE'S INNOCENT!
WHAT?
WHAT THEY'VE FOUND IS LEAD POISONING-- ON A GLOBAL LEVEL!
THEY DON'T HAVE A CURE FOR IT! THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT LEAD IS ON DAXAM! MY FATHER AND I WERE THE FIRST EVER TO ENCOUNTER IT!
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT'S SWEPT THE PLANET-- BUT I DO KNOW THAT IT'S NOT THE ALIEN'S FAULT!
CAN YOU FIND HIM BEFORE HE'S KILLED?
MAYBE--BUT WHAT ABOUT MY FAMILY? I HAVE TO GET TO THEM BEFORE THEY... BEFORE...
YOU CAN DO BOTH.
I BELIEVE IN YOU. YOU REALLY CAN DO ANYTHING.
YES.
YES I CAN.

ALL RIGHT. HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR ON FOOT. LET'S SWEEP THE AREA SURROUNDING THE SCIENCE CENTER.
AND LET'S TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THE LEAD IS. IT'S NOT AN ELEMENT NATIVE TO OUR WORLD.
THERE'S NONE ON THE PLANET?

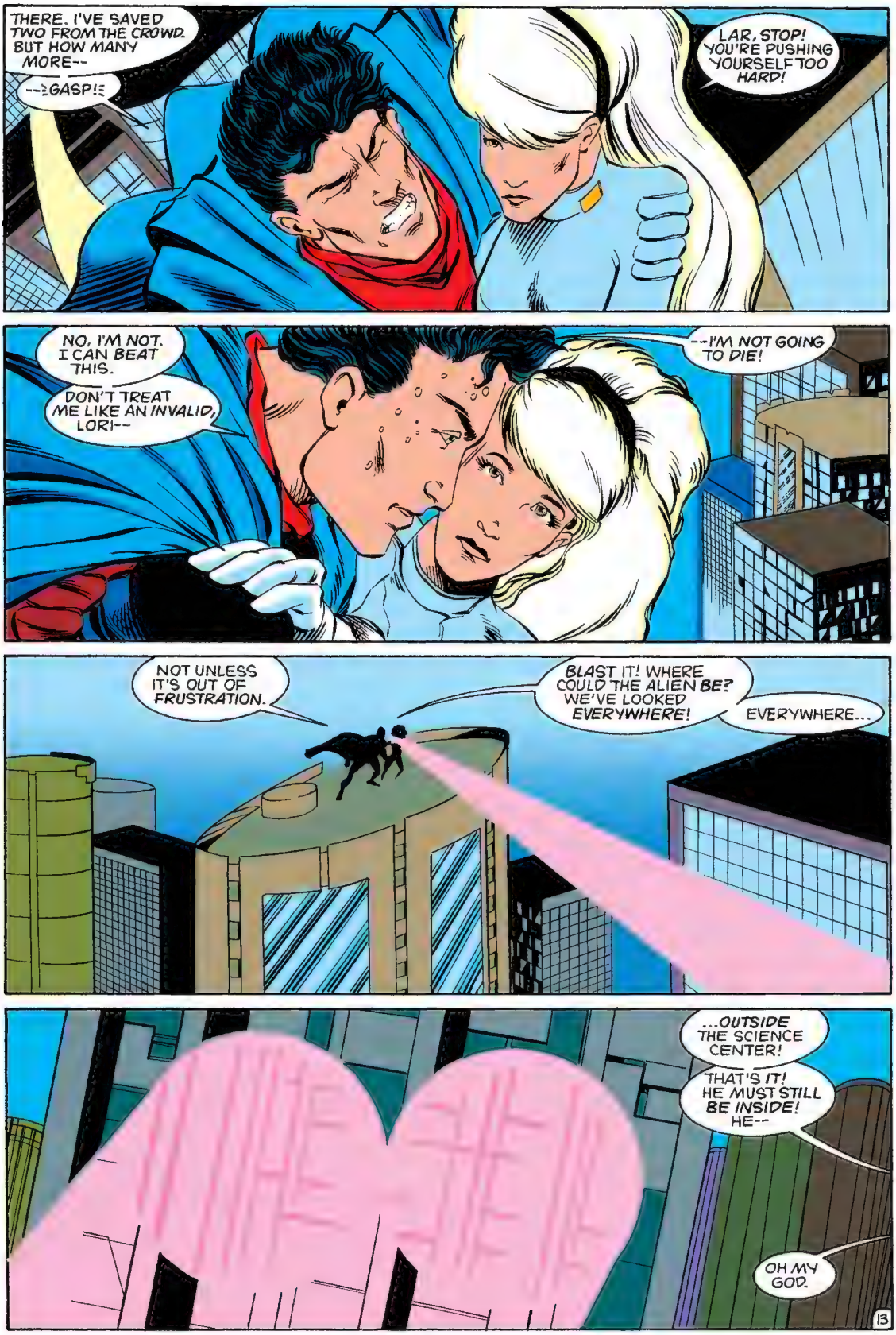

I'D KNOW INSTANTLY IF THERE WERE.
IT'S THE ONLY THING MY X-RAY VISION CAN'T SEE THROUGH, AND RIGHT NOW--

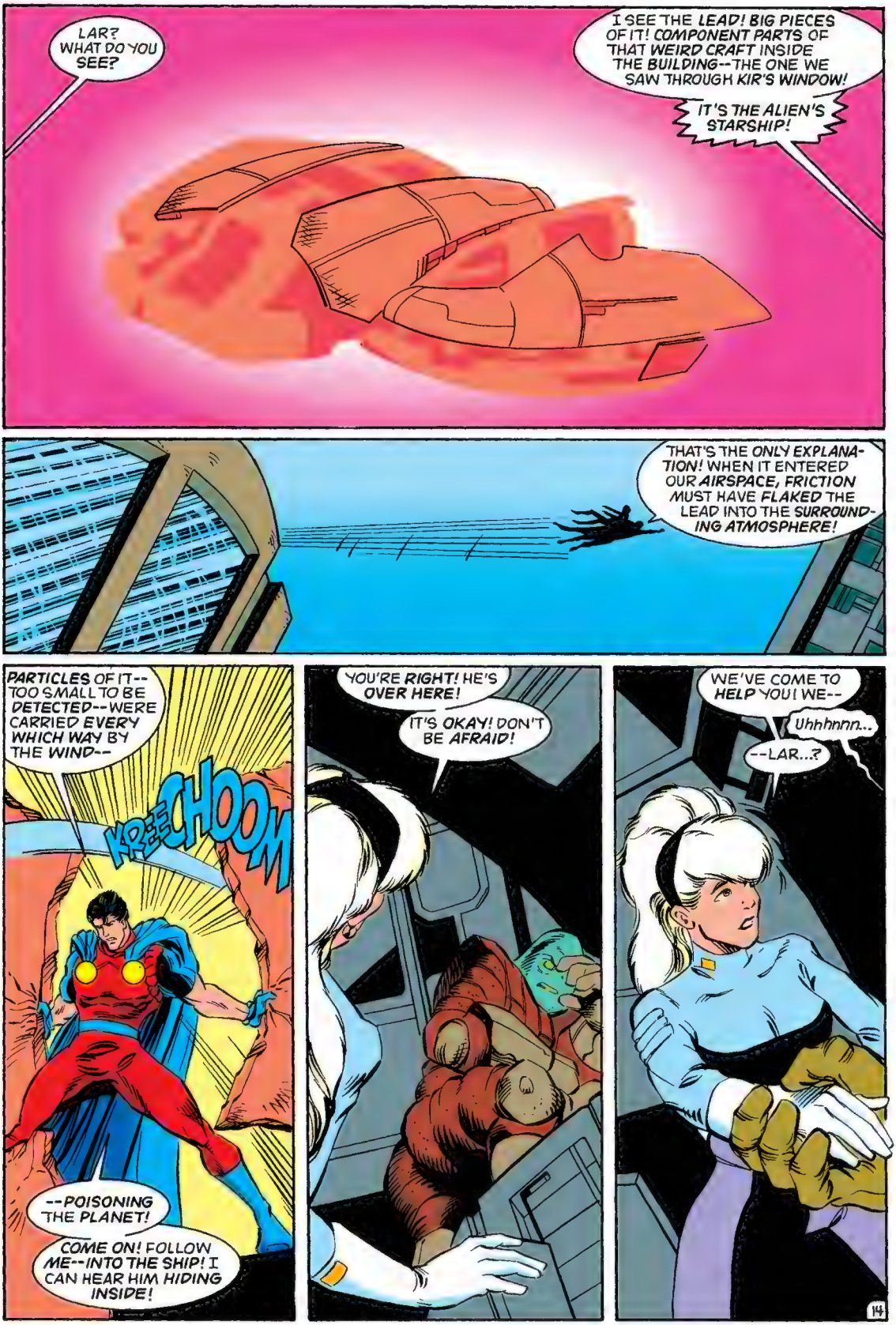

--I SEE JUST FINE.

I ALSO SEE A WILD MOB SETTING FIRE TO WHATEVER'S IN ITS PATH.
THIS IS BAD. I'VE NEVER KNOWN DAXAMITES TO BE HELL-BENT ON DESTRUCTION.


IF THERE'S ONE THING MY PEOPLE REVERE ABOVE ALL ELSE--

THOOM
NNGGH!
THANK...
...THANK YOU.
--IT'S LIFE.

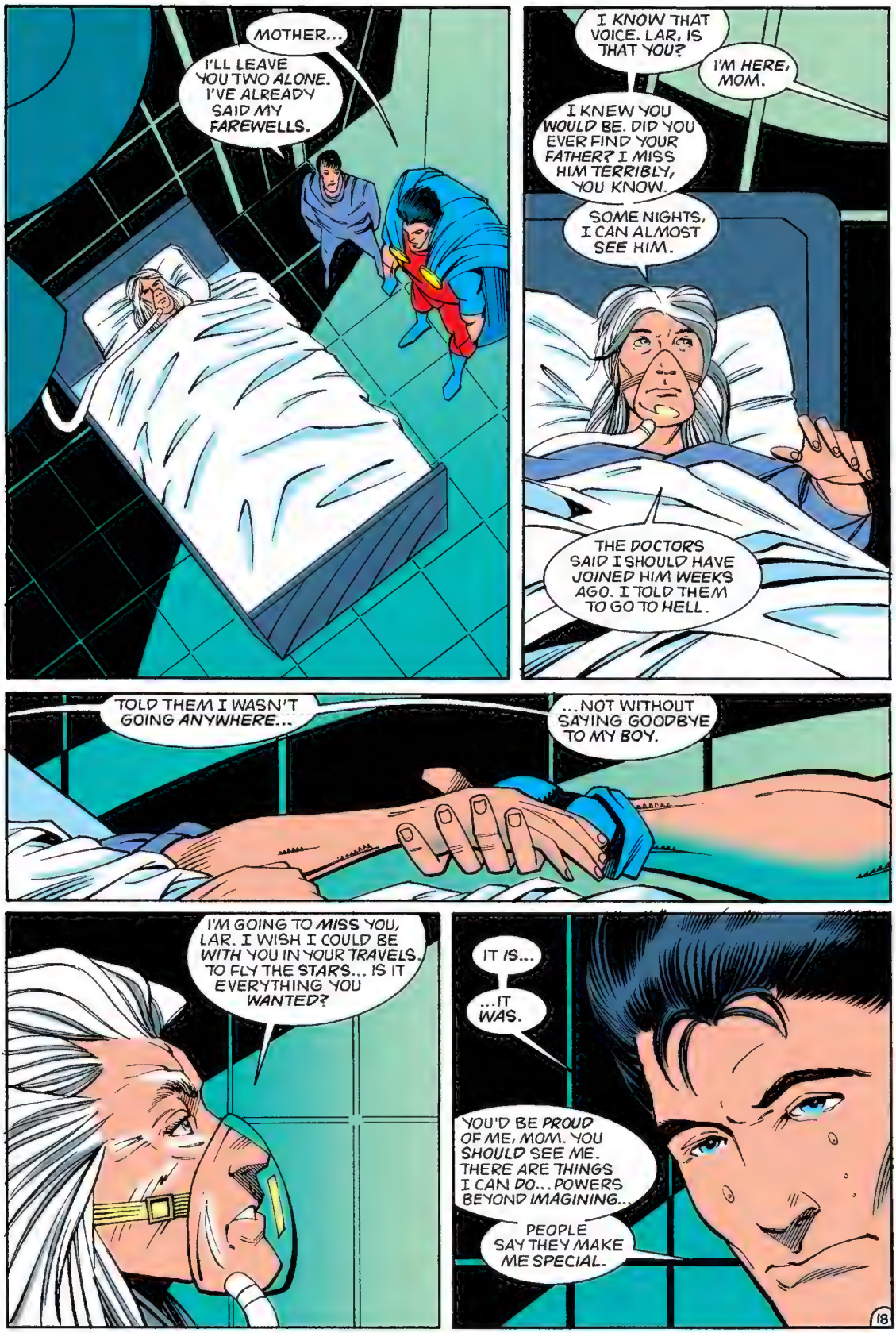

THERE. I'VE SAVED TWO FROM THE CROWD. BUT HOW MANY MORE--
--≥GASP!≤
LAR, STOP! YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD!
NO, I'M NOT. I CAN BEAT THIS.
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE AN INVALID, LOR!--
--I'M NOT GOING TO DIE!
NOT UNLESS IT'S OUT OF FRUSTRATION.
BLAST IT! WHERE COULD THE ALIEN BE? WE'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE!
EVERYWHERE...
...OUTSIDE THE SCIENCE CENTER!
THAT'S IT! HE MUST STILL BE INSIDE! HE--
OH MY GOD.
13


LAR? WHAT DO YOU SEE?
I SEE THE LEAD! BIG PIECES OF IT! COMPONENT PARTS OF THAT WEIRD CRAFT INSIDE THE BUILDING--THE ONE WE SAW THROUGH KIR'S WINDOW!
IT'S THE ALIEN'S STARSHIP!
THAT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION! WHEN IT ENTERED OUR AIRSPACE, FRICTION MUST HAVE FLAKED THE LEAD INTO THE SURROUNDING ATMOSPHERE!
PARTICLES OF IT--TOO SMALL TO BE DETECTED--WERE CARRIED EVERY WHICH WAY BY THE WIND--
KREECHOOM
--POISONING THE PLANET!
COME ON! FOLLOW ME--INTO THE SHIP! I CAN HEAR HIM HIDING INSIDE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! HE'S OVER HERE!
IT'S OKAY! DON'T BE AFRAID!
WE'VE COME TO HELP YOU! WE--
Uhhhnnn..
--LAR...?
14

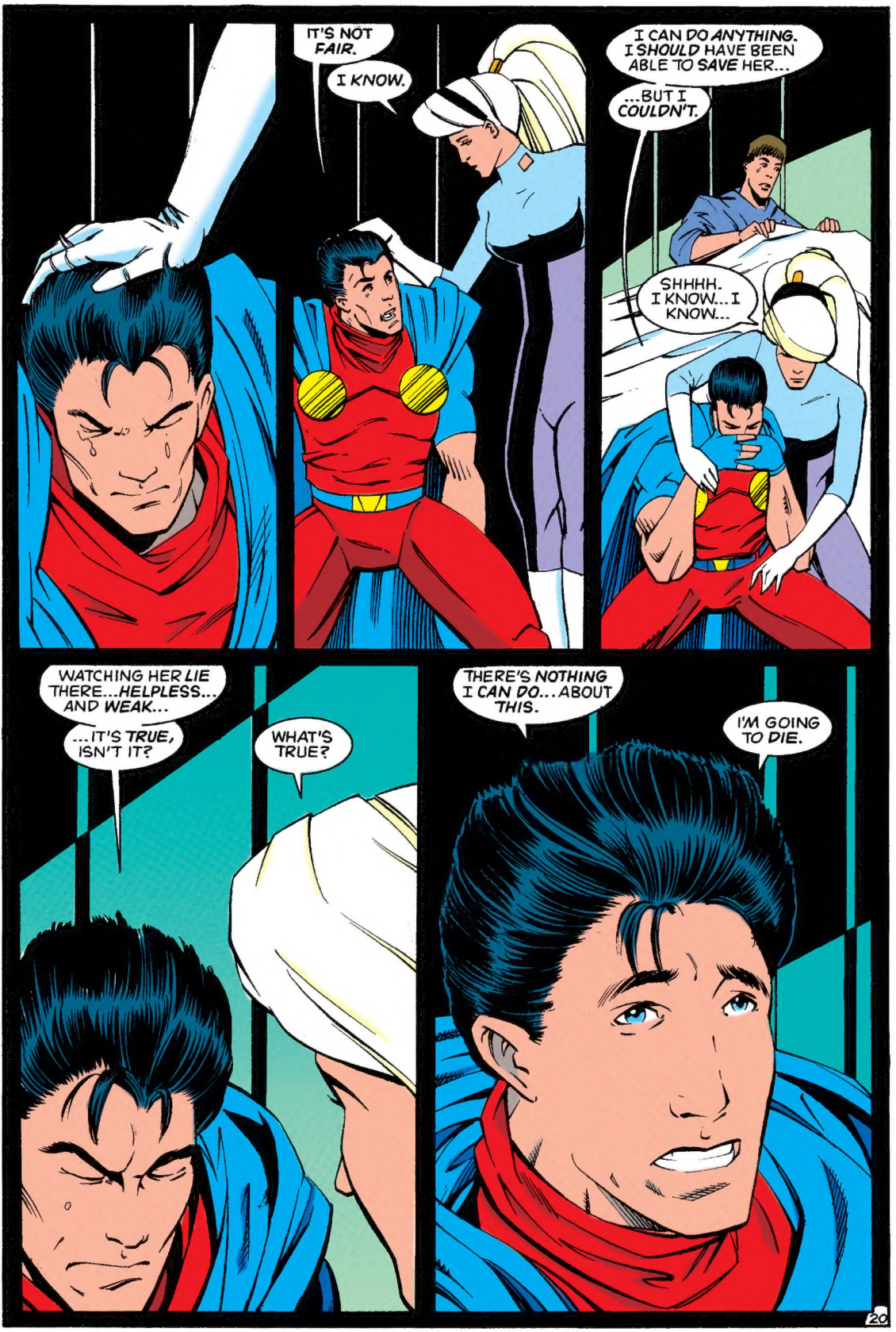
LAR, GO! GET OUT OF HERE! THIS PLACE IS A DEATHTRAP!
THE LEAD IS SHAVING DAYS OFF YOUR LIFE!
MINE... AND EVERYONE ELSE'S. YOU GET OUT. I HAVE WORK TO DO.
SKREEK
GOT TO WRAP THIS THING TIGHT.
IT NEARLY DISINTEGRATED ON ENTRY.
CAN'T TAKE THAT SAME RISK...
15

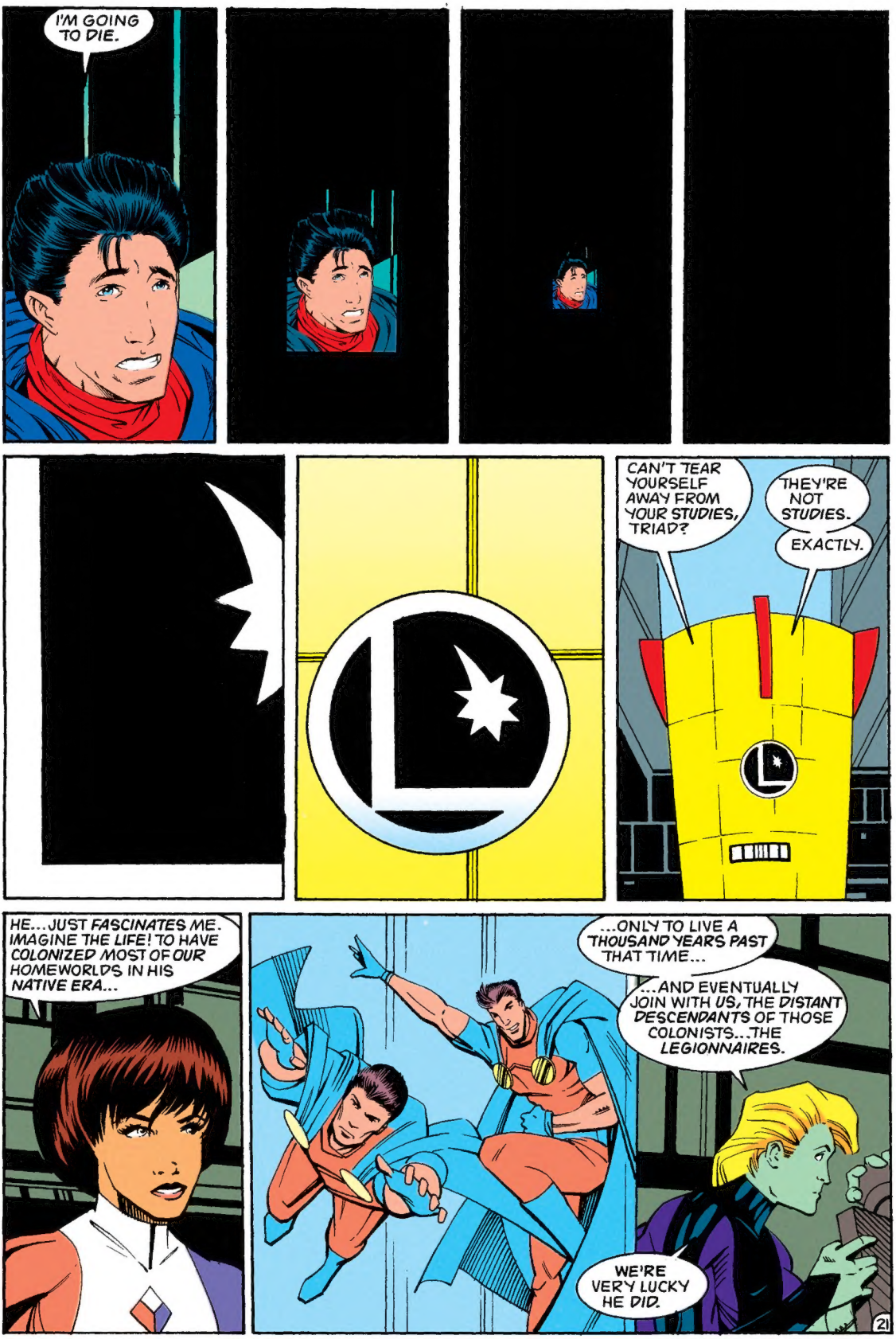
THOOM
...ON EXIT!
MUSCLES... TEARING. GOT TO DUMP IT INTO THE SUN...
...WHILE I STILL HAVE THE STRENGTH!
LAR! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE--
SOMEBODY HAD TO.
DON'T ARGUE. JUST TAKE THE ALIEN TO KIR--EXPLAIN THINGS TO HIM. HE'LL LISTEN.
I'D GO WITH YOU...

"...BUT I HAVE MY OWN PEOPLE TO SEE."
DEL?
DEL, IS THAT YOU? I HARDLY...
SAME HERE. IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, BRO.
OH, MAN. NOW YOU'RE THE HANDSOME ONE! WHAT A ROTTEN BREAK!
FUNNY MAN.
I'M SORRY, DEL. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE.
YEAH, RIGHT. NO SENSE IN ANY OF US ACTUALLY LIVING THROUGH THIS, HUH?
OH, PLEASE. MUST YOU ALWAYS HOG ALL THE GUILT AND RESPONSIBILITY?
IT'S A BIRTHRIGHT. HOW YOU HOLDING UP?
NOT BAD. I WASN'T HIT VERY HARD. I WON'T RECOVER... BUT I'LL SURVIVE. OTHERS HAVE IT WORSE. OTHERS...
C'MON. THROUGH HERE.
SOMEONE'S BEEN ASKING ABOUT YOU.
17


MOTHER...
I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE. I'VE ALREADY SAID MY FAREWELLS.
I KNOW THAT VOICE. LAR, IS THAT YOU?
I'M HERE, MOM.
I KNEW YOU WOULD BE. DID YOU EVER FIND YOUR FATHER? I MISS HIM TERRIBLY, YOU KNOW.
SOME NIGHTS, I CAN ALMOST SEE HIM.
THE DOCTORS SAID I SHOULD HAVE JOINED HIM WEEKS AGO. I TOLD THEM TO GO TO HELL.
TOLD THEM I WASN'T GOING ANYWHERE...
...NOT WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE TO MY BOY.
I'M GOING TO MISS YOU, LAR. I WISH I COULD BE WITH YOU IN YOUR TRAVELS. TO FLY THE STARS... IS IT EVERYTHING YOU WANTED?
IT IS...
...IT WAS.
YOU'D BE PROUD OF ME, MOM. YOU SHOULD SEE ME. THERE ARE THINGS I CAN DO... POWERS BEYOND IMAGINING...
PEOPLE SAY THEY MAKE ME SPECIAL.

YOU WERE ALWAYS SPECIAL, LAR.
YOU WERE...
...MY SON...
MOTHER!
MOTHER...


IT'S NOT FAIR.
I KNOW.
I CAN DO ANYTHING. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE HER...
...BUT I COULDN'T.
SHHHH. I KNOW... I KNOW...
WATCHING HER LIE THERE...HELPLESS... AND WEAK...
...IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?
WHAT'S TRUE?
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO... ABOUT THIS.
I'M GOING TO DIE.


I'M GOING TO DIE.
CAN'T TEAR YOURSELF AWAY FROM YOUR STUDIES, TRIAD?
THEY'RE NOT STUDIES.
EXACTLY.
HE...JUST FASCINATES ME. IMAGINE THE LIFE! TO HAVE COLONIZED MOST OF OUR HOMEWORLDS IN HIS NATIVE ERA...
...ONLY TO LIVE A THOUSAND YEARS PAST THAT TIME...
...AND EVENTUALLY JOIN WITH US, THE DISTANT DESCENDANTS OF THOSE COLONISTS...THE LEGIONNAIRES.
WE'RE VERY LUCKY HE DID.
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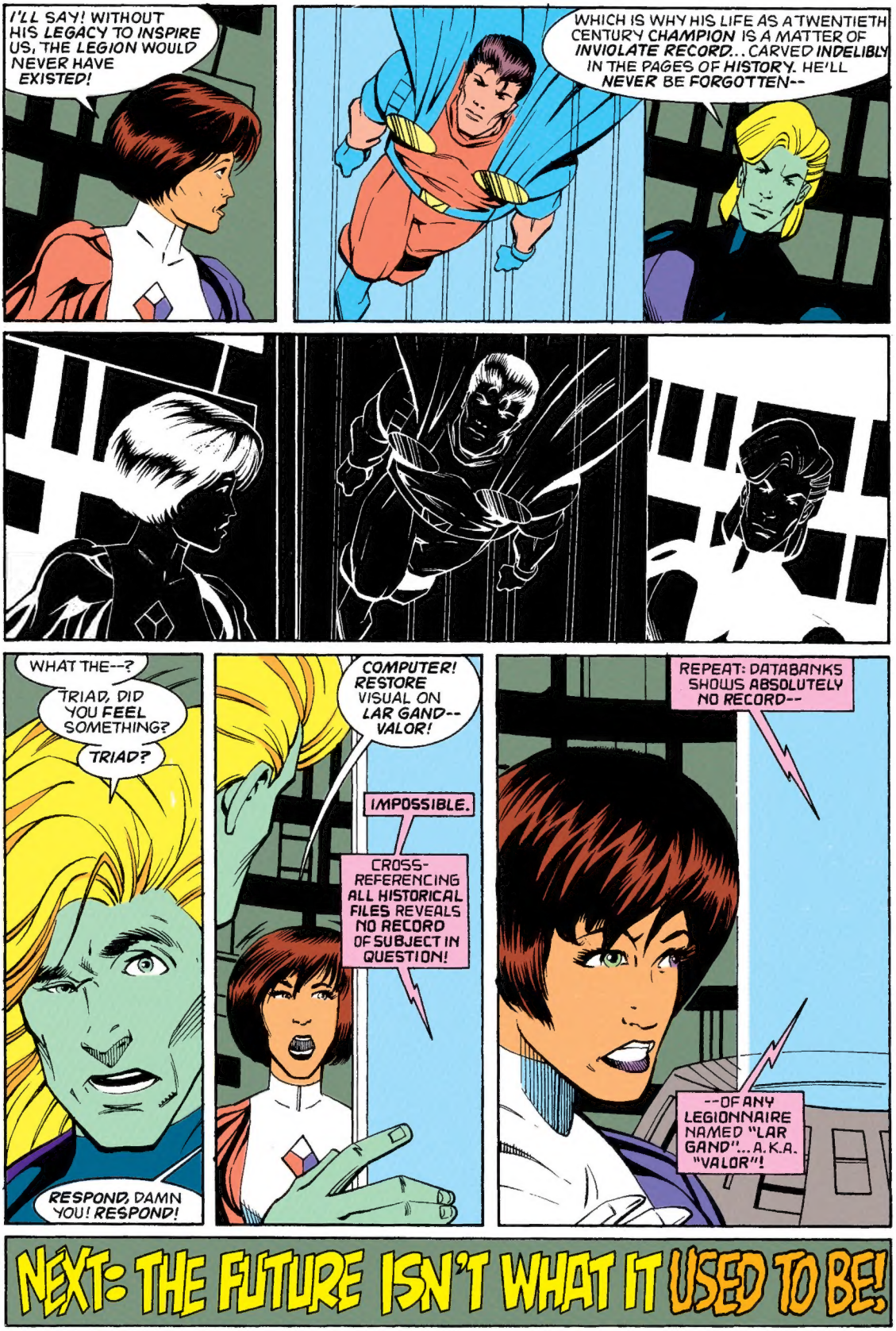
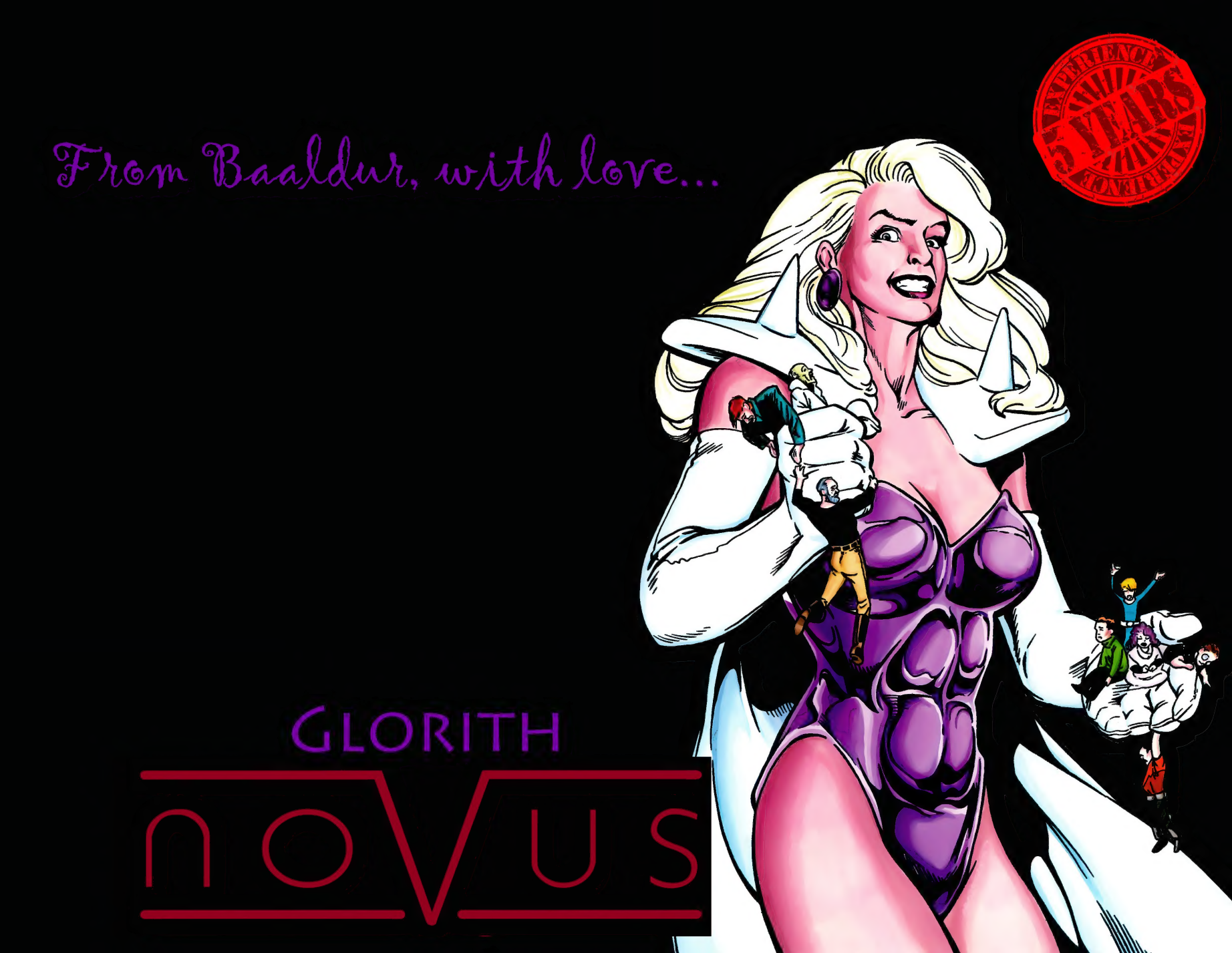

I'LL SAY! WITHOUT HIS LEGACY TO INSPIRE US, THE LEGION WOULD NEVER HAVE EXISTED!
WHICH IS WHY HIS LIFE AS A TWENTIETH CENTURY CHAMPION IS A MATTER OF INVIOLATE RECORD... CARVED INDELIBLY IN THE PAGES OF HISTORY. HE'LL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN--
WHAT THE--?
TRIAD, DID YOU FEEL SOMETHING?
TRIAD?
RESPOND, DAMN YOU! RESPOND!
COMPUTER! RESTORE VISUAL ON LAR GAND--VALOR!
IMPOSSIBLE.
CROSS-REFERENCING ALL HISTORICAL FILES REVEALS NO RECORD OF SUBJECT IN QUESTION!
REPEAT: DATABANKS SHOWS ABSOLUTELY NO RECORD--
--OF ANY LEGIONNAIRE NAMED "LAR GAND"... A.K.A. "VALOR"!
NEXT: THE FUTURE ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE!


From Baaldur, with love...
EXPERIENCE 5 YEARS
GLORITH
NOVUS